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GERMANY.

*Report from Berlin—Plague and cholera in various countries.*BERLIN, GERMANY, *January 20, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit the following information, obtained from the imperial health office at Berlin:

Plague.

TURKEY.—According to a report dated January 7, a case of plague has been registered at Beirut.

EGYPT.—On December 27, 1901, 4 new cases and 2 deaths were recorded in Egypt, viz, 3 cases (1 death) in Tantah and 1 case (1 death) in Ziftah.

BRITISH INDIA.—During the week ended December 13, 1901, there were registered in the Bombay Presidency 6,958 new plague cases and 5,145 deaths—that is to say, 654 cases and 599 deaths less than during the foregoing week. In the city of Bombay during the same period there occurred 206 new cases and 141 deaths. Besides these, 141 deaths were designated as suspected plague. The total mortality of the city decreased from 841 deaths in the previous week to 776.

Plague and cholera.

BRITISH INDIA.—In Calcutta during the period from December 1 to December 7, 48 deaths from cholera were recorded. There also occurred 31 plague cases and 30 deaths.

Cholera.

DUTCH INDIA.—In the district of Soerabaya there were registered between November 17 and November 30, 660 cases of cholera and 457 deaths.

Respectfully,

FRANK H. MASON,
United States Consul-General.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Synopsised translation.]

The occurrence of plague among ship-borne rats and its epidemiological importance, with chart.

[By government-councillor, Prof. H. Kossel, member of the imperial health office at Berlin, and Dr. Nocht, medical officer at the port of Hamburg.]

During recent years single cases as well as great outbreaks of the plague have repeatedly occurred, in which there was no evidence to show that the infectious stuff was introduced by human beings, so that it had to be assumed that the transmission had taken place in another manner. The circumstance that in those countries smitten with the pestilence the seaports were the first to be attacked and that the origin of the disease was almost invariably traced to the immediate vicinity of the docks, certainly seemed to indicate that the sea traffic was in some way connected with the introduction of the disease. But in what manner this sea traffic participated in the spread of the plague, without the medium of human plague patients, hitherto only the merest suppositions could be entertained.

If we follow the plague on the course it has taken, after it had descended from its mountain home in the interior of the Asiatic Conti-